

Iraq says 3 ships hit off Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday its warplanes had hit three ships in the Gulf off the Iranian coast in the past 24 hours. A military spokesman told the Iraq News Agency (INA) the latest attack was at 1250 GMT, following earlier strikes at 0650 and at 1930 GMT Tuesday night. The planes dealt accurate and effective blows to the targets and returned safely to base, he said. There was no immediate confirmation of the attacks from Gulf shipping sources. The last confirmed Iraqi attack was on March 8, when an Iranian tanker was hit by a missile south of Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal. Gulf shipping sources reported on Tuesday an Iranian warship set ablaze the Cypriot supertanker Pivot with a missile. They said there were no casualties and the ship headed for the Gulf emirate of Fujairah after the fire was put out. The Pivot was the 18th ship hit this year in the maritime extension of the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

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King receives
envoys' credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan: Ladimir Janczyszn of Poland, Poul Bent Soendergaard of Denmark and Patrick Mack of Ireland. Also on Wednesday, Mohammad Afanah was sworn in before the King as Jordan's ambassador to Sudan. The ceremonies were attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zaid and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

New awqaf
council formed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed the formation of a new awqaf (Islamic affairs) council with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Azz Al Khayat as its chairman. Mr. Bashir Al Sabbagh, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Al Keilani and Mr. Haidar Murad were appointed members of the council. The two-year council began its work on March 1.

Kuwait to host
Yemeni talks

SANAA (R) — Kuwait will host a meeting next week between South Yemen's leaders and their refugee opponents in North Yemen. South Yemeni opposition sources said Wednesday. Kuwait has long tried to bridge differences between the two Yemens which began talks in 1982 on a merger. The sources said the South Yemenis, led by President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas, would meet leaders of the 30,000 people who took refuge in North Yemen after the overthrow in January last year of President Ali Nasser Mohammed.

Bomb hurled at
Israeli mission
in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Two men on a motorcycle threw an explosive device into the garden of the Israeli diplomatic mission here Wednesday but the bomb failed to explode, police said. A police spokesman said the bomb was contained in a package wrapped in a three-meter iron fence surrounding the mission, located on a main boulevard in the residential suburb of Paleo Psychiko.

U.S. Senate
defeats move
to block aid
to contra rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate defeated a move to block \$40 million in military aid to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels, handing President Reagan a key foreign policy victory. The 52-48 vote virtually assured that the money — the last installment of a \$100-million aid package approved by Congress last year — would reach the rebels fighting the leftist Managua government.

8 killed in
Djibouti blast

PARIS (R) — Eight people were killed and some 30 injured in a blast in a crowded cafe in the Red Sea port of Djibouti, a spokesman for the African country's main newspaper La Nation said. Reached by telephone from Paris, he said the blast in one of the city's most popular cafes appeared to have been caused by a bomb.

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Saudi kidnap victim released in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian kidnap victim was released in west Beirut on Wednesday as Syria was reported to have prevented pro-Iranian kidnappers from killing another hostage, Frenchman Jean-Louis Normandin.

Bakr Damanhuri, an employee at the Saudi embassy's cultural section, appeared at a news conference given by Lebanon's justice minister, Nabih Berri.

"I was treated as a prisoner. I saw nothing, no human, no bird, not even an animal," said Mr. Damanhuri, the first kidnapped hostage to be released since 7,500 Syrian troops backed by 100 tanks deployed in west Beirut Feb. 22.

Mr. Damanhuri, responsible for the affairs of Saudi students in Lebanon, went missing after he arrived at Beirut airport on Jan. 12, police said at the time.

Mr. Damanhuri's release came hours after a pro-Iranian kidnapper group said it had postponed for a

week its threat to kill Mr. Normandin.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation said in a statement Tuesday night it had decided to reprise Mr. Normandin following appeals from Lebanese Shiite clerics and his family, as well as "secret promises given by the French government."

Mr. Damanhuri, eyes brimming with tears, was presented to a news conference at Mr. Berri's home, attended by Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, and Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafiq Hariri.

Mr. Berri said: "Amal and Syrian security officials made intensive contacts and we managed to release Mr. Bakr (Damanhuri)

(Continued on page 4)

Amal-Palestinian clashes renewed near Sidon; sniping blocks food supply to Shatila

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters clashed with Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen in South Lebanon for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, police said.

Battles with machineguns and mortars flared near Zaghdrayeh and Maghdoush villages in hills east of the port city of Sidon, but the police had no word on casualties.

Palestinians from the nearby refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Michi Mieh captured Maghdoush last November in a bid to force Amal to lift blockades on camps in Beirut and Tyre.

The fighters withdrew from Maghdoush in January after "camp-war" mediation by Syria, Libya, Iran and Algeria, and on Tuesday announced a further pullback from Zaghdrayeh.

Amal said it had recovered Zaghdrayeh by force, but this was disputed by the Fatah Palestinian

faction and the pro-Syrian National Palestine Salvation Front (PNSF).

The two Palestinian groups, at odds on political issues, have fought side by side during the "camp-war," which has killed at least 250 people since it erupted again last October.

In Beirut, a Palestinian was killed and a second wounded by sniper fire on Wednesday as they helped unload a U.N. relief truck at a beleaguered refugee camp in Beirut, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said.

The spokesman said the shooting occurred after the first of three trucks entered the battered Shatila settlement, blockaded by Amal forces still manning positions around Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila despite last month's deployment of more than 7,000 Syrian troops in west Beirut.

The PNSF has accused Syria of backing Amal directly in what the Shi'ite militia says is its drive to stop the Palestinians from regaining a power base in Lebanon.

Prospects bleak for solution to Italian crisis

ROME (R) — Prospects for a breakthrough in Italy's political crisis looked bleak on Wednesday after an unfavourable Socialist reaction to proposals for a new government from Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti.

The Socialists of outgoing Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who hold the key to whether the crisis can be overcome and premature elections avoided, were meeting on Wednesday to discuss their reaction to Mr. Andreotti, a veteran Christian Democrat.

But statements from senior party figures Tuesday night and Wednesday clearly indicated that they would not give their support.

The root cause of the collapse, of Mr. Craxi's five-party government two weeks ago was a row between the Socialists and the majority Christian Democrats over the premiership.

The continuing dispute, now focused on the issue of four referendums next June on legal reform and nuclear energy, is the main obstacle to the efforts by Mr. Andreotti, 68, to reconstitute a five-party coalition.

After a week of negotiations since his appointment, Mr. Andreotti on Tuesday presented a series of proposals for defusing this row and creating the basis for a new government.

He proposed that the three nuclear energy referendums should be neutralised by laws making them unnecessary. The legal reform referendum could be held but only if the coalition partners were united over the issue beforehand.

This apparently did not go far enough for the Socialists, who support all the referendums.

said before the meeting between Mr. Armacost and Mr. Shewardnash. That the Soviets regarded Mr. Armacost's visit as "very useful." The Soviets issued no later statement.

Mr. Armacost said the Soviets were looking forward to Mr. Shultz's visit, and that the secretary of state will be prepared to move ahead in U.S.-Soviet relations.

"We think there has been progress in many areas of U.S.-Soviet relations in recent months," Mr. Armacost said.

Progress on disputes other than arms control, particularly on Afghanistan, is as important as disarmament for a long-term improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations, he said.

Problems remain to be solved, including the issue of verification, but "I sense the spirit on both sides to work out those details," he said.

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Mr. Armacost met Monday with First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev. He met Tuesday with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

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King awards highest honour to Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday conferred on his younger brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Al Hussein Ibn Ali Medal in recognition of his continued efforts in serving the country and Arab and Islamic causes at Arab and international forums.

The presentation ceremony took place at the Royal Court in the presence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Mr. Hussein Ibn Ali Medal is Jordan's highest honour.

The awarding of the honour to Prince Hassan coincided with

Prince Hassan's 40th birthday

which falls on Friday. To mark

the occasion, a unit of the Third

Royal Armoured Division held a

military training day on Wednes

day which was attended by the

Crown Prince. The unit, which is

named after Prince Hassan,

staged military training exercises

on the occasion and held shooting

contests.

Prince Hassan presented prizes to the winners. Later, the Prince hosted a lunch to the unit's personnel on the occasion of his birthday. The unit presented the Crown Prince with commemorative gifts.

Raimond postpones visit to Jordan

PARIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond on Wednesday postponed a trip to Jordan scheduled for Thursday because of the situation in Lebanon where a French hostage has been threatened with death. The two-day visit was deferred after a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon announced Tuesday night a week's postponement of its threat to kill a French television crewman seized in Beirut a year ago. "Because of recent developments in Lebanon which demand the presence of the foreign affairs minister in Paris over the next few days, Mr. Raimond feels obliged to put off his trip to Jordan," a ministry statement said. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said in Amman the two governments would later decide the date for the postponed visit. The Revolutionary Justice Organisation said in a statement it had decided to reprise Jean-Louis Normandin following appeals from Lebanese Shi'ite clerics and his family, as well as "secret promises given by the French government." It demanded that Paris send envoys during the next week to explain French policy but gave no further details.

His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday confers the Al Hussein Ibn Ali Medal on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in recognition of the Crown Prince's efforts in serving Arab and Islamic causes (Petra photo)

Crown Prince: Education is a national responsibility

AMMAN (Petra) — The education system and its various dimensions are a national responsibility which should not be shouldered alone by the Ministry of Education, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

Others should contribute to the

process by opening new channels

for national savings to fulfilling

the needs of the system, through

setting up bodies such as a national

fund for culture or Wafa pro-

jects for science and culture, said

the Crown Prince.

Prince Hassan, who was

addressing a meeting of the

Education Council, said His

Majesty King Hussein was closely

following up on the national dia-

logue on outlining and deciding

on the educational policy. The

Prince said that King Hussein was

highly valuing the method which

we have adopted vis-a-vis a pro-

jected meeting in summer to dis-

cuss all aspects related to the

education process to be attended

by all the concerned parties."

The Crown Prince said that

while discussing the present

general situation of the education

policy, "we should undertake a

number of short, medium and

long range policies to develop

education."

The short-term recommendations, Prince Hassan

Soviet warships join U.S. vessels in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Soviet warships are patrolling the Gulf waters, displaying military muscle with the United States, Britain and France in the strategic waterway that has become a key arena of the Iran-Iraq war.

Two Soviet destroyers have operated in the Gulf since Iranian gunboats intercepted and briefly inspected two Soviet freighters last September. Until then, the Western military was predominant in the Arabian Gulf.

The Kremlin has projected its naval presence to uphold the principle of free navigation in the Gulf, according to a published interview by a senior Soviet official. The Iranians have often threatened to close the Gulf.

Soviet efforts to keep the waterway open would dovetail with the position of the United States and its allies on the Gulf, which handles 60 percent of the non-Communist World's oil. But marine salvage officers say the Soviet ships haven't yet liaised with Western warships protecting civilian shipping.

The Soviet naval presence also coincided with increased Soviet diplomatic efforts in the Gulf. Before 1985, only Iraq, Iran and Kuwait among the Gulf states had diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established relations with the Soviets that year. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain still have no diplomatic ties with Moscow.

The United States, which was in Gulf before the Iran-Iraq conflict broke out in 1980, maintains a six-unit task force — three destroyers, two frigates and an amphibious landing ship that serves as command vessel. Britain and France, which joined the U.S. naval force since the war broke out, keep two to three vessels in the region.

The foreign warships have not succeeded in protecting civilian vessels that run the gauntlet of Iraqi and Iranian fighter-bombers, helicopter gunships and missile boats in the Gulf.

The Iraqi raid merchant ships in the 110-kilometer radius they define as a military exclusion zone in the Gulf's northern sector. To curtail Tehran's vital oil exports, the Iraqis bomb Iranian ships and oil-loading facilities.

Iraq attacks Arab and neutral shipping in retaliation and often targets vessels linked to countries that Tehran says support Iraq, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iranian gunboats also intercept and search ships suspected of carrying war-related cargoes near the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's southern gateway.

Nearly 300 vessels have been attacked by both sides since 1984

and some 100 seamen killed.

Abu Dhabi's government-owned Al Ittihad daily recently quoted Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department, as saying Soviet warships were needed in the Gulf to protect civilian shipping.

In a clear reference to military facilities the U.S. navy has in Bahrain and Oman, Mr. Polyakov argued against foreign "military bases" in the region.

The Soviets have a sizeable military presence in the Gulf of Aden on the western side of the Arabian peninsula.

Moscow has friendship and cooperation treaties with both North Yemen and South Yemen, which dominate the Red Sea and the strategic Strait of Bab Al Mandeb.

Arab diplomatic sources say that the two Soviet destroyers patrolling the Gulf operate from a huge base on South Yemen's Socotra Island.

Western shipping officials who monitor movements in the Gulf say one of the destroyers patrols southern sea lanes. The other often is sighted as far as 100 kilometers to the north near the Kuwait coast.

Arab diplomats say the Soviet ships have so far stayed in international waters and out of Arab territorial waters, and some officials say they prefer a balanced Soviet-West military presence in the Gulf.

Israeli commission starts probe of Pollard scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — A government commission opened its closed-door investigation of the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case Wednesday, and officials said the key Israeli operative in the espionage ring was the first to

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated his promise that the commission of inquiry will be empowered to investigate anyone and its findings, although not binding, will be respected.

He also told American Jewish leaders Israel was "intent on maintaining and developing our close and friendly ties with the United States and the government of the United States has informed us that they share this feeling."

But he warned that "there are factors in the Middle East that are trying to exploit the situation in order to damage our close relations with the United States. Our friends must be on guard against this tendency."

The two-member commission, appointed by the Israeli government last week under pressure from the United States, began its first session in the prime minister's office in the walled Defence Ministry compound in Tel Aviv.

Israeli officials requesting anonymity said former high-ranking Mossad agent Rafi Eitan headed the list of those to be questioned by the panel.

A parliamentary subcommittee which is also investigating the affair announced it had finished taking most testimony and hoped to wind up the inquiry in the next seven to 10 days.

Legislator Abba Eban, who heads the subcommittee, said about 10 Israelis were questioned about their involvement in the case.

Pollard, 32, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced in Washington earlier this month to life in prison for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 26, was sentenced to five years in prison for possession of classified documents.

MOSCOW (R) — An official Soviet magazine said Wednesday that missing Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is being held in a building of the embassy of Iran in west Beirut. Literatura Gazeta said, without identifying its sources.

The Briton is believed to have been abducted during a mission to free kidnapped Western hostages in Lebanon.

Wednesday's claim was published in Literatura Gazeta, which last week alleged Mr. Waite's trips to Beirut were concerned more with facilitating secret shipments of U.S. weapons to Iran than with securing the release of Western hostages.

Mr. Waite disappeared in west Beirut last Jan. 20. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, and other church leaders have consistently denied

Carter arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Wednesday he might get new information about American and other foreign hostages held in Lebanon during his coming visit to Syria.

Egypt was the second stop in a private Middle East-North Africa tour that also will take Mr. Carter to Syria, Jordan and Israel. A March 9 statement from his Georgia office said the aim of the trip was to hear about the region's problems and its hopes for the future.

Mr. Carter, admired by many Egyptians for his key role in mediating an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty during his presidency, flew in by special plane from the Algerian capital, Algiers.

Mr. Carter also told reporters he believes leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO should participate in Middle East peace negotiations along with other Palestinians. His Georgia office said the aim of the trip was to hear about the region's problems and its hopes for the future.

"To introduce arms into that equation ... is stupid, a mistake and a big one," Mr. McFarlane told members of the Health Industry Manufacturers Association during a speech at this resort on the Gulf of Mexico.

It was one of Mr. McFarlane's few public appearances since he attempted suicide from a drug overdose last month. The appear-

ance was arranged last summer before he became embroiled in the Iran-contra controversy.

McFarlane backs policy to contact Iranian moderates

MARCO ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane said Tuesday that attempts by the administration of President Ronald Reagan to reach moderate elements within the Iranian government made sense.

But the effort stopped being sensible once weapons came into the picture.

"The idea of simply asking, 'are there any sensible people in Iran?' is a reasonable one," he said.

But Mr. McFarlane said he and others who supported the failed three-month effort to reach Iranian moderates were responsible for weakening America's position with allies who oppose nations that support terrorism.

Money from Iran arms sales reportedly went to kidnappers

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times has reported some profits from the sales of arms to Iran went to a group that financed the kidnappers of Americans in Lebanon, raising the possibility some money reached the hostage-takers.

The payments were made by Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian middleman in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran, the Times reported in Wednesday editions, quoting U.S. officials and associates of Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Ghorbanifar associates said the money was "ransom" paid as part of the effort to gain the freedom of the American hostages, but a U.S. official de-



Terry Waite

Weinberger to fight for more aid to Turkey

ANKARA (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Wednesday promised Turkish leaders to fight a reluctant Congress for more military aid for this southern NATO ally, Pentagon officials said.

He also promised Turkey 40 additional updated F-4E fighter jets under a Pentagon programme to shore up the alliance's southern flank, the officials told Reuters.

Mr. Weinberger met for 90 minutes with Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and senior officers of the Turkish General Staff Wednesday, the second of a four-day visit to this country.

The U.S. defence officials said

both Mr. Weinberger and the Turks expressed strong disappointment at the negative vote in a House of Representatives Subcommittee last week on \$125 million in supplemental aid for Turkey this year.

Turkey will receive \$590 million in economic and military assistance this financial year in return for allowing U.S. defence facilities here.

Mr. Weinberger Wednesday was also touring a new modern facility at Murted, near Ankara, where the Turks will soon begin co-producing U.S. advanced F-16 fighters.

The Reagan administration has proposed more than \$900 million, including \$785 million in military aid, for Turkey in 1988. Under a five-year Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA), signed in Washington this week, the Reagan adminis-

tration promised Turkey it would press to increase aid.

But administration and Turkish officials are worried that Congress, pressed with domestic and U.S. military budget problems, will cut foreign aid requests.

"DECA is a solemn promise by the U.S. government and we will make vigorous efforts in Congress on behalf of Turkey," officials quoted Mr. Weinberger as promising Wednesday.

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EC to help finance scientific research and animal wealth projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community is to provide Jordan with two grants worth a total of 4.1 million European Currency Units (ECU) to help finance projects conducted by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in accordance with two initial agreements signed in Amman on Wednesday.

The grants are part of a total of 19 million ECU promised by the European Community to Jordan under an earlier agreement signed by the two sides in 1982.

One of the agreements signed Wednesday is for 2 million ECU which will be used to finance the purchase of equipment and laboratories and to train technicians at the RSS. The other agreement for 2 million ECU will go to the JCO to help the organisation carry out a sheep fattening project and to increase meat production in the Kingdom.

The two agreements were in-

itialled by Minister of Planning Tamer Kanaan and Dr. Romano Lanini, European Community representative in Jordan.

Last month, the European Community and Jordan signed an agreement under which the Kingdom will receive two million ECU to finance the purchase of equipment and technical training for staff working at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan.

In another development, the European Economic Community has approved a \$1.8 billion aid package to south and east Mediterranean countries, including Jordan. The foreign ministers of the countries adopted a five-year financial aid package to eight countries in the region during a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday. Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel will receive the aid which is to run through 1992.

Alumni club holds seminar on women, their role in society

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — UK22, the United Kingdom graduates alumni club, held a cultural event on Tuesday night as part of the Kingdom's celebrations marking International Women's Day.

The event included lectures, a seminar and a panel discussion on various issues of concern to Jordanian women as well as exhibitions of paintings, books, embroidery and jewellery, all made by Jordanian women.

Mrs. Asma Khader, a prominent Jordanian lawyer, presented a working paper at the seminar

especially in cases of moral behaviour. She called for the development of these laws in order to cope with modern trends.

Dr. Hisham Ghuseib, from the Royal Scientific Society, also presented a research in which he stressed that the emancipation of women in society is connected with the freedom of the community since, he said, women are a basic part of the social structure.

He said that the present status of women in society was the result of accumulated social and historic conditions which ultimately gave the man the upperhand in society.

'The weaker sex,' Dr. Ghuseib said, is partly to blame for accepting the *de facto* situation without attempting to enhance their position in society over the years.

At the end of the seminar, the audience took part in a debate on women and their society.

The painting and book exhibitions featured new publications and works by Jordanian female writers and painters. Several Arab writers also had their books on display at the book exhibition.

Mayor to outline services, plan for Greater Amman today

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh is to address a press conference today in which he will review municipal services provided in the Greater Amman area and details of the 1986-1990 five-year plan to develop the capital and its surrounding region.

Following the press conference, the mayor will accompany

journalists on a tour of different areas of Amman to brief them on projects under execution.

On Wednesday, Amman Municipality announced that nine areas which had been infested with rodents have been completely cleaned and a second offensive will start this month to eliminate rodents found in a number of new areas of the capital.

'My Fat Friend' opens to enthusiastic audiences

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Theatre goers in Amman are bound to enjoy 'My Fat Friend,' a hilarious two-act comedy full of witty dialogue and fun-filled surprises. The play, currently being staged at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel playhouse, also features some of Britain's best loved actors and actresses, including John Inman, known to Jordan Television audiences for his role in the series 'Are you being served.'

It's what's on the inside that counts is the main message behind Charles Laurence's almost two-hour comedy 'My Fat Friend.' Laurence, considered by drama critics as one of Europe's most successful playwrights, appears to not only have made the play a big theatrical hit when it was first staged in Madrid, but also here in Amman. And, judging by the audience's positive reaction to the proceedings and by the warm welcome and support it received during the gala opening at the hotel on Tuesday, the play appears to be one of the best dinner theatre events staged so far at the hotel.

"And indeed, in this very funny play, the author shows plenty of invention and a nice aptitude for witty dialogue and laughter-provoking situations," wrote one of Britain's newspaper theatre critics on the play.

The play's four-member cast who are the British Airways touring theatre group are Vicky (Patricia Brake), a 13-stone Hampstead bookseller, her two lodgers: James (Ian McCurrach), a young Scots novelist and Henry (John Inman) an outrageous tax collector, as well as Tom (Christopher Scouler), a handsome, romantic geologist.

By sheer coincidence, Tom starts a relationship with Vicky a day before he leaves for Istanbul on an oil excavation mission. Vicky, always apathetic and frustrated about her inability to loose

weight, is driven by her lodgers to follow a determined weight loss campaign to shed those extra pounds with a whirlwind course of sauna baths and healthy runs on the beach.

Tom, loaded with presents and Turkish delight returns to Britain to discover that Vicky has lost four stone. Over-ridden by a feeling of dismay and shock, he walks out of her life.

It ends with a totally unexpected and hilarious climax involving Vicky and her two lodgers. Yet in the middle of all the fun Lawrence keeps to a truth within his comic situations that makes the characters both real and sometimes touching.

Credit for the play's outstanding

COMMUNIQUE DE L'AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

EN RAISON DU REPORT DE LA VISITE OFFICIELLE EN JORDANIE DU MINISTRE FRANCAIS DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, LA RECEPTION QU'IL DEVAIT OFFRIR A LA COMMUNAUTE FRANCAISE CE SOIR 19 MARS A 18 HEURES A LA RESIDENCE DE FRANCE EST ANNULEE.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday patronises a ceremony to honour working mothers who have raised their families under difficult circumstances (Petra photo)

Grid link expected to benefit Jordan, Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — The projected scheme to link the national grids of Egypt and Jordan will have great advantages for the two countries and the Arab area in economic and technical fields,

according to Dr. Hamdi Al Saher, deputy director of the Egyptian Energy Authority, who is now on a visit to Jordan.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Saher said that the project could be a nucleus for linking grids in other Arab countries. A study is underway for executing this project, which, he said, would provide protection to either network in cases of emergency in that either of the two will operate and feed the other if any breakdown occurs.

Dr. Saher underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation in energy and electricity fields which is being carried out in implementation of a joint memorandum of understanding.

Dr. Saher started a two-week visit to Jordan last Saturday during which he held meetings with officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Jordan Electricity Authority and other departments to prepare the final version of the projected plan before submitting it to the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee in its April meeting for approval.

On Wednesday the delegation visited the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) and were briefed on its programmes and services. They also toured parts of the Jordan Valley and inspected JEA projects there.

W. Bank cooperatives thank government for its support

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from agricultural cooperative societies in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the government for its support and assistance to West Bank farmers.

Members of the delegation who spoke at the meeting referred in particular to government facilities extended to West Bank farmers to help them market their products in the East Bank and abroad.

Mr. Rifai welcomed the delegation who represent some

4,000 cooperatives in the West Bank and reaffirmed the government's determination to offer West Bank citizens all possible help to help them market their products.

The meeting at the prime minister's office was attended by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Mrewid Al Tal and parliament members who represent the West Bank constituencies of Hebron, Nablus, Jericho, Jenin, Tulkarm, Ramallah and Salfit.

They discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Mr. Dudin spoke about the ordeal of the Arab inhabitants living under Israeli rule. The minister also detailed the Jordanian government's development plan for the occupied territory

from Damascus is leaving today across the Jordan River for a visit to the occupied West Bank.

Dudin briefs Belgian official on occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Eric Kobia, head of the Middle Eastern department at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday conferred with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin.

They discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Mr. Dudin spoke about the ordeal of the Arab inhabitants living under Israeli rule. The minister also detailed the Jordanian government's development plan for the occupied territory

from Damascus is leaving today across the Jordan River for a visit to the occupied West Bank.

At the meeting, views were exchanged about the latest developments in the occupied territory and Europe's role in helping to bring about a lasting settlement through an international conference.

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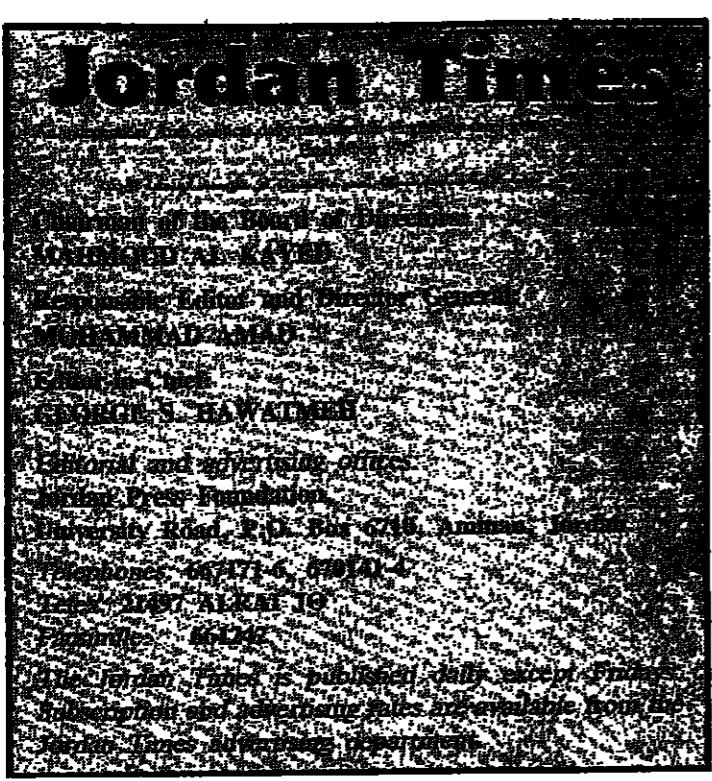
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Iran seeing red

IT appears that two related developments influenced the Iranian leadership recently to step up efforts to woo the Soviet Union: first, with the public exposure of the clandestine arms deals with the U.S., an arms supply source has been at least temporarily blocked, affecting consequently the fighting capability of the Iranians; second, the Kharala-5 offensive turned catastrophically suicidal for the Iranian forces themselves and many Iranian cities had to take heavy poundings from Iraqi air raids. A way to mellow down Iraqi onslaughts until Iran could find replenishments for its fast-depleting armoury was to try to get the Soviet Union — Iraq's regular arms supplier — interested or involved in Iranian affairs. It was thought expedient, if possible, to diplomatically pressure the Soviets into adopting restrictive arms supply policies that would adversely affect Iraq. A vigorous diplomatic offensive was also seen as an attempt at stifling the Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty of 1972. The Soviets are certainly interested in maintaining good neighbourly relations with Iran but not at the expense of Iraq. However, the Soviet Union is least interested in seeing the two developing countries continuing a war at its doorstep. When Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar V-ayati made an official visit to Moscow in mid-February, he had to listen to some unpleasant lectures from the Soviets. The Soviet position was made clear to him: "Common sense suggests that main attention should be devoted not to the past but to the future — to securing that the war be discontinued. It's not in the interests of your people to have to expand cemeteries where war victims are buried. We are convinced a way must be searched for to end the war. We repeat what we have several times told the Iranian leadership: a day of fighting is worse than five years of talks."

Of late Khomeini has been blowing hot and cold against the U.S., accusing it of manipulating Gulf politics. This was again a signal to the Soviets to favourably consider resuming economic and technical cooperation, discontinued since 1983 when the pro-Moscow Tudeh party was castigated and 18 Soviet diplomats expelled. Iran is interested in getting Soviet technical cooperation for a wide range of projects such as aircraft, railways, atomic energy, dam construction and steel mills. 1,200 Soviet technicians engaged in constructing the Isfahan steel mill were withdrawn in 1985 for fear of Iraqi bombing. Iran is in dire straits for foreign exchange. Soviet transit routes for Iranian trade to the West and the Far East are important. Hence also, the leadership has been careful to cultivate the Soviets and maintain a pro-Soviet tilt in recent days.

The Soviets have one definite advantage. They need not have to resort to the method the U.S. adopted in trying to befriend the Iranian leadership. They would not have to carry, for example, a cake shaped in the form of a sickle and hammer and a copy of the Das Kapital to Tehran in order to elicit friendship and sort out outstanding issues. A red carpet would likely welcome Mr. Shevardnadze should he choose to visit Tehran and that would certainly be to the chagrin of the U.S. which would most likely interpret the event as "Iran gone red."

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Ungrateful Israel

DESPITE Israel's attempts to conceal the ramifications of the Pollard affair more details of the scandal continue to fill newspapers around the world. The Pollard scandal is a typical case of Israel's show of ungratefulness to countries that provide the Jewish state with all means of help and assistance. The Israelis had earlier stolen nuclear material for making the atomic bomb, and French gunboats from a port in France under de Gaulle's rule. It is true that the Pollard case is bound to cause a great damage to the prestige and credibility of the United States, but the classified information which Pollard had obtained, and the secrets this spy supplied to Tel Aviv are bound to do greater harm to the Arabs and help the Israelis to launch further acts of aggression anywhere in the Arab World. The United States had been continually supplying arms and financial assistance to the Jewish state in the belief that the stronger Israel is the greater the chances for peace will be. But the Pollard scandal has proved that Israel's military arsenal is not a tool for peace and that despite American assistance, the Israeli rulers will continue to violate peace and perpetuate their hold on Arab territory. Above all, U.S. unlimited supply of arms to Israel has clearly encouraged it to pursue its aggressive policies and its international espionage activity. The U.S. and the world at large should take a lesson from the Pollard affair, and realize the danger inherent in Israel's policies in the Middle East region.

Al Dustour: Pollards and Gentiles

THE Israeli leaders are nowadays concerned with the Pollard case, the Israeli spy who has been given a life sentence in the United States. The Israelis are trying with all their might to minimize the negative effects of this case on U.S.-Israeli relations because they are afraid of their far-reaching impact on the future aid to Israel. Among those bearing the brunt of the consequences of the affair are the American Jews who do not want to appear as spies for the Jewish state or a menace to U.S. security. Pollard was an American Jew spying for Israel and his actions can harm U.S.-Israeli relations and the status of the Jewish community in the United States. For this reason the Israeli government has now decided to set up an inquiry commission in a bid to mislead the American public opinion into believing that proper action will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such espionage activity. This move is taken in order to ensure that U.S. aid to Israel which comes out of American taxpayers' pockets will continue uninterrupted. But the Arabs hope that the American people in particular and the world at large will wake up and realize the double standards of the Jews and their underhand policies wherever they are and regardless of their nationality.

Sawt Al Shaab: Scientific approach

THE government has decided to set up a higher council on science and technology, well aware of the role which such council can play in promoting development and achieving prosperity for the country. Jordan which enjoys a unique position in the region and continues to witness economic and social development is qualified to serve as a centre for science and technology; and therefore a national strategy in this respect is now required to enable science and technology to serve the Kingdom more effectively.

Gorbachev walks tight rope with his 'glasnost'

By Fred Donovan

THE just concluded trial in Czechoslovakia of five members of the Jazz Section, an underground artists' group, highlights a potential conflict between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's *glasnost* and the Soviet Union's political management of its Eastern European neighbours.

The president of the banned group, Karel Srp, and the secretary, Vladimir Kouril, were sentenced to 16 months and 10 months in jail, respectively, for "economic crimes." These crimes include the publishing and selling of magazines and books after the Jazz Section was formally closed by the interior ministry in 1984.

Their relatively light sentence suggests uncertainty among Czechoslovakian leaders on how to deal with the liberalisation taking place within its ally, the Soviet Union. The more conservative members of the ruling party are no doubt reluctant to follow Mr. Gorbachev's lead, while other, more moderate leaders, probably welcome some of the Soviet leader's reforms.

But, what is most interesting about this trial is what it portends for developments in eastern Europe. A question naturally presents itself: how will Mr. Gorbachev handle the spreading of *glasnost*, his liberalisation programme, among his neighbours to the west?

Only the most dogmatic anti-communists in the West can pretend that what Mr. Gorbachev is doing in the Soviet Union is pure propaganda. There can be little doubt, considering the concrete steps so far taken, that Mr. Gorbachev is bent on a major overhaul of the Soviet system. At the very least, he appears set to loosen controls on the media, to decentralise the economy, and weed out corruption in the Soviet bureaucracy. It remains to be seen whether the will lead his country to full democracy.

He does appear to be moving full steam ahead with his reforms. The release of dissident physicist, Andrei Sakharov, was a milestone in this process. The distinguished physicist has been free to openly criticise the Soviet government and officials. And last month, the Kremlin freed 150 dissidents with a promise to release 150 more. In a speech to the Soviet Central Committee, Mr. Gorbachev blasted

official corruption and called for more democracy in party elections.

On the economic front, Mr. Gorbachev is pushing for greater efficiency, more free enterprise, and a reduction in drinking on the job. An unprecedented law, recently passed, allows Soviet companies to enter into joint ventures with foreign firms.

To carry out this ambitious reform programme, Mr. Gorbachev must walk a tightrope between the entrenched bureaucracy and the more ideologically conservative officials, on the one hand, and the centrifugal forces of the vast and ethnically diverse Soviet empire, on the other.

The West has not been helping Mr. Gorbachev at all in this difficult task. Rather, U.S. President Reagan's determination to pursue his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a space-based defence, has no doubt made matters more difficult for a Soviet leader who has taken the initiative on arms control. Should Mr. Gorbachev fail in persuading the United States to stop deployment of SDI, he may have a lot of explaining to do to more hard-line members in the Politburo. Furthermore, he may find them less receptive to his domestic reforms. His greatest challenge may come, however, from the countries of eastern Europe. For, if in these countries that the spreading of *glasnost* could cause the most trouble for this charismatic Soviet leader.

Since the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union used the presence of its armies to install friendly governments in eastern Europe, the leadership has kept a close eye on its neighbours. Having paid an enormous price in the war, some estimates putting the death toll at 20 million people, the Soviet Union has been reluctant to loosen its grip on the "fronts" of the war, its buffer zone to the west. The Soviet invasions of Hungary in 1956, and of Czechoslovakia, to quell the "spring thaw" of 1968, attest to the Soviet determination to keep these governments "friendly."

Should Mr. Gorbachev's *glasnost* catch hold in eastern Europe, and demands for greater liberalisation take place, this could have political repercussions for Mr. Gorbachev in the Soviet Union. A

more independent eastern Europe, made up of countries and peoples which have lived in the shadow of Russian power for centuries, and Soviet power since WW II, is likely to be less pliant and more assertive in its policies toward the Soviet Union. So far, the Soviet leader has been able to press his reforms without having to deal with significant disturbances in eastern Europe. He has visited all the countries there except Czechoslovakia, which he plans to visit next month — no doubt to show Soviet support for the present leadership and remind people that the Soviets have not "forgotten" their neighbours.

If Mr. Gorbachev is able to successfully walk his tightrope in the Soviet Union without a crisis in eastern Europe, he should consider himself lucky. If a crisis does develop, the Soviet leader's political skills will certainly be put to the test. He will either have to allow greater freedom and independence among his east European neighbours and risk a political backlash in the Soviet Union, or use Soviet military might to keep them in line. Should he choose the latter, his image in the West and around the world will be destroyed.

The West, however, should not work to force the issue. The United States, in particular, has encouraged challenges to the authorities in eastern Europe. Any abrupt changes, such as open revolt, could force Mr. Gorbachev's hand and bring Soviet forces to bear on its neighbours. This would not be in the best interest of the West, for it could bring the ascendancy of conservative elements once again in the Soviet Union. Rather, the West should not make things any more difficult for Mr. Gorbachev than they already are. The West should give Mr. Gorbachev some time to see if his plans to expand his *glasnost* to eastern Europe.

If Mr. Gorbachev can deal successfully with a crisis in eastern Europe and gradually allow greater freedom there, without adverse political repercussions inside the Soviet Union, then he will surely go down in history as one of the greatest political masters of this or any other century. Events, however, have a way of upsetting the best laid plans, and of catching even political geniuses off-guard. Mr. Gorbachev, beware springtime in Prague.

Arab Americans gearing up for 1988 election impact

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

WASHINGTON — "Americans of Arab ancestry have contributed greatly in every field, availing themselves of the freedoms and opportunities of this country," according to President Reagan.

In a message to those attending the Arab American Institute (AAI) conference in Washington, the president said, "Their industry, pride and exemplary patriotism have enriched our national life. Their concern for peace and justice in the Middle East helps us promote a negotiating process that will lead peace and security for all peoples of the area."

"I commend your efforts to promote active involvement and participation in our political system. I am confident that your discussions and reflections can make a unique contribution."

More than 200 Arab Americans from 26 states gathered in the nation's capital March 13-15 to attend the third annual AAI conference.

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Mystery still surrounds disastrous ferry voyage

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium — More than a week after the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry, mystery still surrounds the critical 20 minutes that led to one of Europe's worst peacetime sea disasters.

At 7:08 p.m. on a cold, clear March 6, the jumbo ferry pulled out of berth No. 12.

At 7:28 p.m., with little warning, it flopped onto its port side and sank with stunning speed — in less than one minute by some accounts.

One hundred thirty-four people are believed to have died in the disaster, although most of the bodies have yet to be recovered from the ship.

Investigators were able to quickly establish that the ship took on massive amounts of seawater through its bow loading doors. But they have yet to fully answer a series of other, equally important questions.

Why were the bow doors open? What happened to allow seawater to enter the doorway, which normally clears the water line by at least 2.4 metres?

Why is the capsized vessel facing back toward the harbour instead of toward the open sea?

Accounts by survivors have shed little light on the exact cause of the accident, and the official Belgian and British investigating teams have said they will not comment publicly until their studies are completed.

After a grueling series of recovery efforts, 55 bodies have been found. Official estimates of the number of bodies entombed in the half-submerged ship vary, but Townsend Thoresen, the ferry's

operator, says it believes 79 bodies will be found when the wreck is recovered.

The ship lies in nine metres of water, the port side resting in the sandy bottom.

"In a real sense, it is a grave," says Peter Ford, the ferry company's chairman. Many of those in it, he says, may never be identified.

Four hundred and nine people, including the ship's captain, 46-year-old David Lewry, survived. Most had been in the cafeteria and other upper sections of the triple-deck ferry. Some suffered only minor injuries. Many, however, were lacerated or smashed by waves of glass, steel and human forms that swept the decks as the ship heeled over.

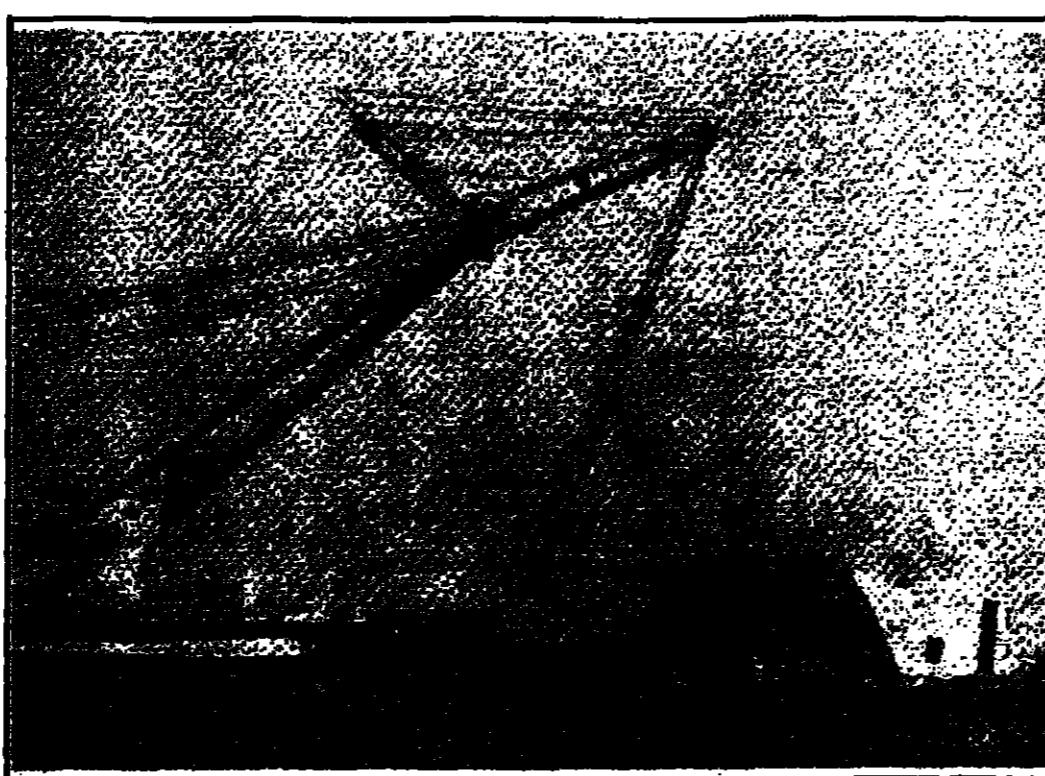
Survivors have said the 7,951-tonne Herald of Free Enterprise began to list to the port side almost immediately after it left the harbour entrance and entered the North Sea. The entire ship would have become submerged if not for the fact that it sank in relatively shallow waters.

Some managed to save themselves and others by scrambling above the water line, breaking through plate-glass windows and hoisting themselves out of the stricken hull. There were reports of people forming human chains to pass one another up into the open air of freedom.

One man was seen carrying a young girl to safety by grasping her shirt in his teeth.

Rescuers who arrived on the scene minutes after the accident are credited with saving many lives.

Townsend Thoresen and the Belgian and British authorities have heaped praise on the emergency crews and volunteers



A large bearing a salvage crane was positioned early this week beside the Herald of Free Enterprise in the harbour of Zeebrugge, Belgium. Operations

who responded to the crisis. But none yet has been able to explain exactly how it happened.

Townsend Thoresen has acknowledged that the ferry's vehicle hold was flooded by seawater that entered through the bow's steel loading doors. But there has been no official explanation of what let the seawater in.

Some eyewitnesses have said the bow doors were not closed when the ferry left the harbour. That doesn't explain, though, what caused the bow opening to dip low enough to reach the water

line. The seas were calm that evening.

One theory is that there was too much ballast in the bow, and that once the ferry had turned around inside the harbour and was moving forward at a slight angle to the port side, water washed in through the bow doors.

The weight of the water would make the ship list even more, allowing more water to enter and prevent the ship from righting itself.

Another possibility mentioned by some maritime experts is that

some portion of the ship, perhaps the propellers or a part of the keel, struck an underwater object as the ferry was leaving the harbour entrance. That could have forced the ship to dip enough to allow water into the bow doors.

Townsend Thoresen and the salvage company it hired, Smit Tak International of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, both say there is no evidence that any section of the ferry — including the propellers — had been damaged.

Still another theory is that the ferry, for some unexplained

reason, made a sudden swerve to the right as it was passing the port's outer seawall. This might have caused the ship to lean radically to port side — much like the effect on a car turning sharply at high speed.

The exact cause of the disaster may not be known for several weeks or months. In the meantime, Smit Tak is working day and night to complete the monumental task of uprighting the Herald of Free Enterprise.

Hans Walenkamp, who is leading the Smit Tak salvaging work, said Friday he expects to have the ferry back on its keel by the end of March.

Using an estimated 4,000 tonnes of pulling force, two Smit Tak crane barges — both anchored to the seabed by 60-foot steel girder — will yank the ferry up by metal cables welded to strong points on its main deck.

Once the ferry is uprighted, the water inside it will be pumped out and the vessel will be towed back into Zeebrugge harbour. Then will come the grueling task of removing and trying to identify the remaining bodies.

For all the shock felt by the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise, passengers continue to ride Townsend Thoresen ferries from Zeebrugge.

Six days after the disaster, Derek Hunter, a British army private based in West Germany, strode into the Townsend Thoresen ticket office at Zeebrugge harbour and booked a one-way passage to Dover.

Did he have any fear of retracing the path of the Herald of Free Enterprise?

"No, not at all. I have to get home," he said with a smile. "I'm going to get married."

Randa Habib's Corner

Straight and level

IT was only recently that I came to realize that, after all, we have made a big fuss about nothing. We have apparently misunderstood the government's newly-imposed fees and taxes.

For example, the JD 150 fee for obtaining a work permit for a foreign domestic helper means an extra JD 14 a month, which is equivalent to the cost of one visit to the hairdresser and one present to a relative or friend.

Imagine, if you wish, how easy it is going to be for you to recognize those ladies and gentlemen who have a domestic helper at home and insist on keeping her despite the new fees that they may not be able to afford and on the other hand it is also easy to recognize those who can.

A person with long, messy hair should be immediately identified as failing in the first category as does the woman who does not buy a present for her friend, her sick relative or her good neighbour.

As for those who would never even think of having expensive hair cuts or buying presents — such as the low-paid secretary, the under-paid school teacher, the nurse and many more — and who have a helper at home would have to give up their jobs and stay at home to care for their children.

This would also be a lesson for them not to act like rich people when they are not, and not to indulge in luxury when they could not afford it. It is true that people are equal in principle, but, in reality, we should not let it slip our minds that there are people who are more equal than others.

As for those women who work because they want to pursue a career and because they have hopes to contribute to the country's development, let them come up with the JD 150, or forever stop having dreams they can't afford.

You see, there was no need for us to make such a big fuss. Remember the story of Christopher Columbus? Not the one about discovering America, but his discovery of a way to make an egg "stand" on an even surface. It only takes some imagination.

Star Wars shadow falls over space station

Some western nations are uneasy about the joint-venture manned space station planned with the U.S. for launch in the 1990s. Peter Marsh says that they worry that the orbiting centre could be used for Star Wars purposes.

LONDON — The highly controversial U.S. Star Wars programme is casting its shadow over the plans of the main industrialized nations to build a \$12 billion manned space station in the 1990s for use by international teams of scientists.

The U.S. is discussing the station — intended primarily for civilian use — with Western Europe, Japan and Canada. Negotiations are at a critical phase, with legal agreements between the countries scheduled for the summer, in time for development work to start later in the year.

In recent weeks, however, the other nations have realized that the orbiting base, which is intended to accommodate eight people and to be in place by 1994, could become a vehicle for experiments conducted under the \$26 billion Star Wars programme, more formally called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

The space-based experiments could include research into laser weapons and satellite-based sensors, which could form part of an operational shield to defend the West from Soviet nuclear missiles.

The subject of Star Wars is likely to surface at a meeting in Paris at which officials from the 13-nation European Space Agency will press U.S. negotiators for more details about possible military plans for the base.

So far, the U.S., which a little over three years ago invited the other countries to participate in the station project on the basis of a partnership, has refused to give assurances about the Star Wars issue. It says, however, that the base will not be used for developing weapons.

Given the doubts which exist about Star Wars among many of the governments talking to the U.S. about the space station, the other countries are reluctant to accept the U.S. stance over military activities on the base.

An official from the British National Space Centre said he found parts of the U.S. proposals "disturbing."

Mr. Jan Sternstedt, director-general of the Swedish Board for Space Activities, said he could not accept use of the station for any secret military activities.

These could include experiments related to Star Wars.

— Financial Times feature.

Giant atom-smasher could unlock secrets of universe

By David Brough
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A proposed 4.4-billion ring of magnets, 83.7 kilometres around and capable of smashing tens of thousands of atoms a second, may help illuminate the origins of the universe, scientists say.

Proponents of the planned new super-powerful atom smasher concede its day-to-day applications are unclear, but they say practical benefits always flow from such devices and the advance in scientific knowledge would be immense.

The underground smasher — formally, a "superconducting super collider (SSC)" or "particle accelerator" — has been approved by President Reagan as a long-term U.S. department of energy project with a target completion date of 1996.

However, Congress must each year approve the proposed development budgets expected to total \$4.4 billion.

"The accelerator could give a deep insight into the fundamental structure of matter and energy," said Jack Sandweiss, a Yale University physics professor who heads an energy department advisory panel.

Energy Secretary John Hertington described the project in rapturous terms at a news conference, saying, "in high-energy physics, the development of the super collider is the equivalent of putting a man on the moon."

The device will consist of two rings of giant magnets laid out in a 8.37-kilometre, racetrack-shaped tunnel 10 feet in diameter.

Particles of matter called protons, considered a fundamental part of the nucleus of all atoms, will race around the rings at velocities nearing the speed of light — 186,000 miles (299,274 kilometres) a second — and collide with an energy of 40 trillion electron volts.

That is 20 times the energy created by any existing high-energy accelerator, scientists say.

The expectation is that the resultant explosion will simulate on a tiny scale the "big bang" that many physicists believe created the universe, and mimic its results by breaking the protons into previously unknown bits of matter.

"I think one of the greatest intellectual adventures of our time is the fact that we can sort of conceive of the idea that the universe had perhaps a beginning," Alvin Trivelpiece, director of the energy department's Office of Energy Research, said at a news conference on the project.

"What are we made of? What are the most fundamental building blocks? That's one of the most interesting intellectual challenges of our time. And the SSC

is the kind of tool that makes that possible."

Besides expanding knowledge about the nature of matter and the origins of the universe, proponents say, the big smasher might also shed light on the hypothetical end of the universe.

Scientists believe sub-atomic particles as yet undiscovered make up much of the mass of the universe and theorise that, if they could learn the nature of this mass, they could calculate whether the universe will expand forever or one day contract.

Both Switzerland and the Soviet Union are building similar super colliders, scheduled for operation in the mid-1990s, but scientists say neither will be as powerful as the U.S. model.

The multi-billion-dollar price tag, however, has caused concern among U.S. government officials and politicians and made the debate over practical benefits an important one.

Hertington insists the expense is justified because, judging from prior research in high-energy physics, the smasher "will have spinoffs, discoveries and innovations that will profoundly touch every American."

While SSC advocates concede they cannot predict precisely what tangible advances might result, they say such past projects have led to developments in nuclear power, medicine, advanced electronics, computer chips and food processing.

"If this doesn't (lead to similar breakthroughs)... it will be the first time in the history of building any of these accelerators or telescopes or whatever," Trivelpiece said.

"Probably something like a third of our gross national product owes its existence to our knowledge of the atom and its sub-atomic parts, the electron, proton and neutron."

"There isn't a thing around you that isn't based on that particular knowledge base — nuclear power, nuclear medicine, the Strategic Defense Initiative (Reagan's Star Wars missile defence plan) that the United States is currently developing."

"All of those things owe their existence to knowledge gained over the past 20, 30, 40 years."

But Trivelpiece rejected suggestions the accelerator was being designed with military purposes in mind.

"The military application of this I don't believe exists," he said.

One non-scientific benefit of the project is already clear and stirring intense interest, however — a lucrative economic spin-off for the locale chosen as the site of this immense federal construction project, expected to employ nearly 5,000 workers in the building stage.

Prolonged use of hashish 'a serious threat to health'

By Dieter Schwab

MUNICH — Many still people think that hashish, the hippy drug, is harmless. They are wrong. Regular use over years can seriously damage the health.

A report shows that prolonged use can cause feelings of isolation, chronic feelings of indifference and other psychological problems.

Hashish comes from the resin of the female plant *Cannabis sativa var. indica*. Its leaves contain the narcotic marijuana.

Such family circumstances and resulting developmental problems are one cause of drug abuse.

Contact with the drug started in most cases between 13 and 17. They experienced a host of pleasant feelings ranging from happiness to relaxation and peacefulness.

But when interviewed they admitted to the drug's negative effects. Three quarters of them spoke of occasional circulatory problems and vomiting.

Other effects were changes in perception of time and body accompanied by the distorting of space and colour.

Problems often followed after the high had worn off. The user becomes listless and tired and finds himself wanting to take the drug again.

Eberhard Lungenhausen, the clinic director, looks upon such symptoms as signs of addiction. And Krista Stosberg thinks that "consumption of hashish cannot be part of everyday life because it destroys social order."

One can see this in the educational opportunities of smokers. Despite their being of normal or above average intelligence none had a university degree. A few managed to get a secondary leaving certificate.

Admittedly all were employed but not in jobs corresponding to their abilities. Most knew the drug was detrimental to motivation.

Even in leisure time the drug seemed to be the only interest.

Nearly a half the participants had had an accident at some time. Recent consumption of hashish was not the only explanation.

After years of use the drug takes years to be broken down by the body and therefore exercises a continuous influence — *Suddeutsche Zeitung*.

"It started when one side put up a light that the other side claimed was illuminating its positions. It retaliated, putting up a light of its own. Soon a whole stretch of line was lit up.

"At night you hear lots of jeering between troops in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish guard posts," he said. Turkish Cypriots also guard some parts of the line.

Insults, bullets fly across Cypriot 'dead zone'

By Katherine McElroy
Reuter

NICOSIA — United Nations soldiers keep the peace along military lines dividing Nicosia to the sound of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots hurling insults at each other.

But sometimes events get out of hand and bullets replace the insults.

During the last three years two Greek Cypriot soldiers have been shot dead across the buffer zone, which shrinks from seven kilometres at its widest to three metres at its narrowest in the centre of Nicosia.

For SSC advocates, the status quo in the buffer zone area can mean painting a white line on a wall to see if rows of bricks are being added to improve defences.

FIFA to review ban after N. Korean no-show

ZURICH (R) — International soccer authorities will review a decision to exclude North Korea from the 1988 Olympic competition, a spokesman for the international football federation (FIFA) said.

North Korea was automatically disqualified after its national team failed to appear at an Asian region qualifying match in Kuala Lumpur Monday but Pyongyang has protested that it should be exempt from qualifying since it is co-hosting the Olympic Games.

"Our sub-committee for emergency matters will be reviewing the whole affair," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni told Reuters.

Officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have been working for months to reach a compromise on North Korea's

demand that it jointly host the Games.

Tognoni said that rules of the Olympic soccer tournament made FIFA the federation responsible for taking a decision on the matter. Under normal IOC procedures, failing to appear at a qualifying competition brings disqualification.

IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdi concurred that FIFA was empowered to rule on the issue.

"This is a technical matter within FIFA's jurisdiction," she said.

Preliminary ties have already started for 15 available berths.

The South Korean side, as official host, have been given the 16th place.

The North Korean team had been scheduled to play Thailand in Kuala Lumpur.

Arsenal's title hopes suffer another blow

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's English First Division title hopes suffered another blow when it was held to a goalless draw at home to Nottingham Forest.

The fans seemed to be getting the message, only 18,352 turning out after Arsenal's exit from the Football Association (FA) Cup on Saturday at the hands of Watford and the league defeat by champion Liverpool a week ago.

Arsenal, although with a game in hand, now trails Liverpool by nine points and any honours this season look to lie in the League Cup final where it meets — Liverpool.

With central defender Dave O'Leary joining its casualty list, Arsenal should have been a goal down after two minutes.

It signalled the start of a two-week cultural festival and one of the biggest camel racing events in the Arab World.

More than 1,000 camels were expected to compete in races on the first two days. Spectators talked of prizes such as gold daggers, cars and cash.

The camels careered around a sand track at Janadriyah, a reconstructed model Saudi village 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the capital, Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz headed the dignitaries at the official opening. Foreign diplomats

mingled with Arab royalty to witness the spectacle.

Outside the track, hundreds of Saudis watched the action through binoculars from the tops of their cars.

The winning jockey was Mohammad Obaid, a 14-year-old boy from Kassala in eastern Sudan. He and many other jockeys were brought to the kingdom especially for the festival.

Officials saw the event as part of efforts to preserve traditional life, threatened by the rapid development of the past 15 years fuelled by oil revenues.

300 camels race to start Saudi festival

took first and fourth with his camels. Mohammad Ibn Sand Al Kabeer, a cousin of the King, gained second and third.

The opening race Wednesday morning was reserved for Sudanese male camels. Arabian females were competing in the afternoon.

Shabib, from the Wadi Dawsir oasis southeast of Riyadh, arrived nine days ago with his camels, camping out near the racetrack. He failed to finish in the first 100.

"I come every year. This time I was not lucky," he said.

Two Saudi princes split the top four spots in the morning race — Saudi Ibn Mohammad Ibn Abdul Aziz, a nephew of King Fahd,

Brazil's Socrates retires from soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Socrates, the lanky midfielder who was considered one of Brazil's most skilled soccer players in the past decade, announced that he was retiring from the sport.

Socrates, 33, said it was unfair for him to keep drawing his salary from Rio's Flamengo club, where he was a reserve and recovering from a series of injuries. "The important thing is to be at peace with my conscience. I could not continue receiving high but underserving salary," Socrates told reporters.

Socrates earned an estimated \$4,500 a month, plus an undisclosed amount in bonuses and prize money.

The surprise announcement on his retirement upset many of his fans and colleagues.

"Socrates could still play for a long time. He is a rare talent. Flamengo will miss him, Brazilian soccer will miss him and, most of all, those who admire clear, elegant soccer will miss him," said midfielder Falcao, a former teammate of Socrates on Brazil's 1982 World Cup team.

Socrates' career began in 1974, playing for the modest Botafogo club in the rural city of Kubo Preta in his home state of Rio de Janeiro.

In 1978, Socrates was transferred to Corinthians of Sao Paulo, one of the country's most popular clubs, although he said he disagreed with the "authoritarian" way the club was run.

Socrates quickly gained nation-



Socrates

wide attention with his elegant style of play and his trademark, a behind-the-back pass with his heel that caught many defenders flat-footed.

"Intelligent, creative, capable of treating the ball with surgical efficiency and precision, Socrates was never one of that small group of stars from whom soccer is the greatest emotion ..." soccer commentator Claudio Mello E Souza wrote Tuesday in his daily column for the Rio newspaper O Globo.

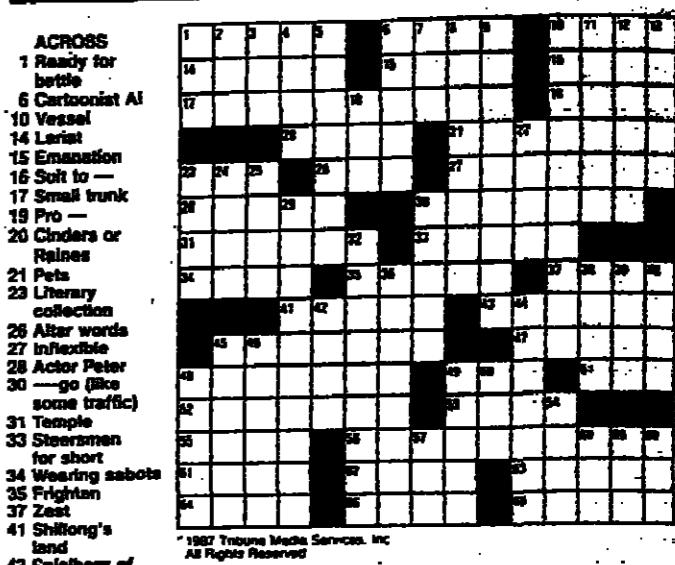
In 1978, Socrates was transferred to Corinthians of Sao Paulo, one of the country's most popular clubs, although he said he disagreed with the "authoritarian" way the club was run.

After 11 months, he returned to Brazil and signed with Flamengo, where fans envisioned a "dynamic duo" of Socrates and Zico in the midfield. But it was not to be. Both players were injured and spent months in recuperation. They played together again briefly on Brazil's 1986 World Cup team in Mexico.

Seen as the last hurrah for a generation of stars.

Returning to Brazil, Socrates underwent back surgery and managed to play only a handful of games for Flamengo.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzles Solved:

WADY 3 10 12 14 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 417 418 419 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 575 576 577 578 579 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 595 596 597 598 599 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 675 676 677 678 679 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 695 696 697 698 699 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 715 716 717 718 719 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 775 776 777 778 779 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 787 788 789 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 795 796 797 798 798 799 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 805 806 807 808 808 809 809 810 811 812 813 813 814 815 815 816 817 817 818 818 819 819 820 821 822 823 823 824 825 825 826 827 827 828 828 829 829 830 831 832 833 833 834 834 835 835 836 836 837 837 838 838 839 839 840 840 841 841 842 842 843 843 844 844 845 845 846 846 847 847 848 848 849 849 850 850 851 851 852 852 853 853 854 854 855 855 856 856 857 857 858 858 859 859 860 860 861 861 862 862 863 863 864 864 865 865 866 866 867 867 868 868 869 869 870 870 871 871 872 872 873 873 874 874 875 875 876 876 877 877 878 878 879 879 880 880 881 881 882 882 883 883 884 884 885 885 886 886 887 887 888 888 889 889 890 890 891 891 892 892 893 893 894 894 895 895 896 896 897 897 898 898 899 899 900 900 901 901 902 902 903 903 904 904 905 905 906 906 907 907 908 908 909 909 910 910 911 911 912 912 913 913 914 914 915 915 916 916 917 917 918 918 919 919 920 920 921 921 922 922 923 923 924 924 925 925 926 926 927 927 928 928 929 929 930 930 931 931 932 932 933 933 934 934 935 935 936 936 937 937 938 938 939 939 940 940 941 941 942 942 943 943 944 944 945 945 946 946 947 947 948 948 949 949 950 950 951 951 952 952 953 953 954 954 955 955 956 956 957 957 958 958 959 959 960 960 961 961 962 962 963 963 964 964 965 965 966 966 967 967 968 968 969 969 970 970 971 971 972

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6053/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3121/26	Canadian dollar
	1.8367/77	West German marks
	2.0757/67	Dutch guilders
	1.5370/80	Swiss francs
38.07/10		Belgian francs
6.1140/90		French francs
1304/1305		Italian lire
151.95/152.05		Japanese yen
6.4030/80		Swedish crowns
6.9400/50		Norwegian crowns
6.9075/9125		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	406.00/406.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices rose to near record levels, with the FTSE 100 share index looking set to just top Tuesday's closing record of 2,006.3.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was 2.3 points up at 2,008.6, compared with a record high of 2,021.5 on March 4.

Prices moved ahead at the outset on continued optimism over Tuesday's U.K. budget, but a smaller than anticipated half-point cut in base lending rates Wednesday morning came as somewhat of an anti-climax and put a brake on the advance, dealers said. The big four U.K. clearing banks cut their base lending rates to 10 per cent from 10½ per cent.

Many had been anticipating a full one point cut in base rates in the light of Chancellor Lawson's reduction in the 1987/88 public sector borrowing requirement target to just £4 billion.

Dealers said despite the disappointment over the base rate cut, Wall Street's firmer opening helped to lift prices.

Some analysts forecast that the U.K. market will continue to gain ground in the wake of the budget but they noted that retail and overseas investors could well decide to take profits ahead of a possible general election this year.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAR. 19, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Differences in viewpoints over financial and practical matters are almost bound to arise today. They can be harmoniously settled if each person makes an effort.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure you know exactly what is expected of you by the other person in any monetary dealings you may have.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can have a bad argument with an opinionated partner if you do not handle the matter tactfully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle a personal task early so that it will not interfere with your routine affairs later.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may not agree with a close friend over someone you both know, but everyone's entitled to an opinion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Schedule your activities wisely so that home affairs do not conflict with outside matters. Do not lose your temper at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may find it hard to get your theories working today. A friend and a new contact could argue, but don't mix in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study that new plan carefully and then discuss it with an expert until you reach a meeting of the minds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try not to be so stubborn if you want to gain your personal wishes or you will meet with stiff opposition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You hardly know how to handle all the work you need to do. Plan it well and it will soon be done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Someone in your group refuses to go along with all of you in a pleasurable venture. Accept this graciously.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can improve home affairs if you concentrate on them exclusively. Steer clear of trouble makers.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't go off on any tangents. You have every opportunity to get ahead if you support your partner more.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be very capable at whatever is of a practical nature. Teach this one not to expect others to do things the way he, or she, does, or your progeny will be met with a great deal of opposition. Slant the education along business lines for best results.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may find some nit picking conditions annoying you, but this soon clears up and you get into some progressive phases of the interests that most animate you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Rid yourself of some secret worry and then you can get into activities that are most profitable.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You know exactly how to gain greater expertise in business, so get busy at that now. Don't waste any time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Steer clear of that noisy public affair. Get some civic work handled who can bring you advancement.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get conned by one who is overly dynamic. Handle your affairs in a more efficient way.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take the time to plan recreations that will please you. You must, however, be sure to stay within your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid an associate who has a chip on his shoulder. Invite older persons into your home and learn from them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Ignore an irate fellow worker and handle personal matters. Be with your friends and learn from them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try not to take on a big expense today. Study your property well and plan any repairs that are needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try not to argue with a home tie. Get together with friends that can be very helpful to you now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget an annoying letter and make plans to gain your wishes. State your true affection for the one you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Postpone handling a financial matter until you are thinking more clearly. Go after personal aims now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get rid of any negativity around you. Come right to the point with a bigwig and get good results.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have many excellent ideas that are advanced and there is bound to be much travel during this lifetime. Teach your progeny to put ideas into motion quickly since there is a tendency to daydream here. You have a young wizard.

British banks cut interest rate to 10%

LONDON (R) — Britain's banks Wednesday began cutting interest rates, responding to a big drop in the government's borrowing target announced in the annual budget Tuesday.

National Westminster Bank and Barclays Bank cut their base lending rates to 10 per cent from 10.5 per cent Wednesday morning. The other big banks, Lloyds and Midland later followed the lead. It was not immediately clear whether building societies, which lend money to people buying houses, would follow and cut mortgage (home loan) repayment rates.

British mortgage (home loan) interest rates vary over the life of the loan, depending on general interest rate trends. In a nation where nearly two-thirds of households now own their own homes, a cut in mortgage rates would help the ruling Conservative Party in a probable election year.

Speculation increased after the budget that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would call an election as early as June.

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson had the option of slashing the basic rate of income tax by four percentage points in his budget.

He opted instead for a two percentage point cut to 27 per cent, while reducing the government's public borrowing target to £4 billion (£6.4 billion) from the previous year's £7 billion (£11.2 billion).

That opened the way for lower interest rates. Those, besides holding out the prospect of cheaper home-buying, should also give industry a boost making investment cheaper and boosting consumer credit.

Foreign investors were quick off the mark in reaction, setting off on a share-buying spree that Wednesday morning pushed the widely watched Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) index of 100 leading shares up 12.7 points to a near record high of 2019. Besides plumping into British stocks, foreign investors quickly moved to snap up huge amounts of British bonds, before their prices soar in response to lower interest rates. The demand for pounds to finance these investments pushed sterling itself up about one cent to a high of \$1.6070.

The sharp gains came even though many analysts had expected a one percentage point cut in rates and said in second half point cut remained possible soon.

The markets are still pushing for the other half and will continue to push until they get it," said Mr. Andrew Smith, economist at Alexander Laing and Cranstoun. "Lawson is taking a cautious approach to make sure the cut is accepted by the market."

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, said Tuesday night that a one percentage point interest rate cut would allow it to mortgage rate to drop 1.25 percentage points to 11 per cent. A half point base rate cut would only permit a fall to 11.5 per cent.

Four or five experts on both sides have before them a Comecon draft proposal and are expected to come up with recommendations for action at a higher political level, EC diplomatic mission spokesman Anton Leicht said.

He declined to reveal details of the draft, including whether Comecon was seeking a firm timetable for setting up relations.

A statement on the secret talks may be released after they end Friday, he said.

U.S. trade deficit soars to record \$140b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States sank further into the hole as the world's largest debtor nation in 1986 when the debt on its broadest measure of foreign trade soared to a record \$140.57 billion.

Last year ended on an especially gloomy note as the quarterly deficit from October through December hit a record as well — \$36.84 billion — primarily because of a further deterioration in merchandise trade, the government reported Tuesday.

The current account measures not only trade in merchandise but also in services such as investment earnings, tourism and foreign aid.

The imbalance in the nation's current account jumped 19.5 per cent above the previous record of \$117.68 billion, set in 1985, the government said.

The current account deficit may represent the low-point for America's trade problems, with some analysts predicting a slight improvement this year or at least no further deterioration.

But economists agree that the country's net debtor status will get much worse before it begins to improve, forecasting a total U.S. debt topping \$1 trillion by the early 1990s.

While the United States has run a deficit in merchandise trade for 15 of the past 16 years, the current account was in surplus as recently as 1981 as Americans' earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset the merchandise deficits.

But in recent years, a flood of foreign goods has wiped out the cushion once provided by investment earnings.

Deficits in the current account have made the United States the

world's largest debtor country with foreigners now owing more in U.S. investments than Americans hold in foreign investments.

The United States became a debtor nation in 1985 for the first time since 1914 with a total figure owed to the rest of the world of \$107.44 billion. The new figures on the current account for 1986 indicate that the U.S. debt has reached more than \$220 billion, putting America far ahead of the previous debt leader, Brazil, which owes \$108 billion to foreigners.

The \$36.84 billion current account deficit for the final three months of 1986 was 4.4 per cent higher than the previous record set in the July-September quarter of \$35.30 billion.

Most of the deterioration was accounted for by a higher merchandise deficit, which climbed to \$38.37 billion in the final three months of the year, up 3.5 per cent from the third quarter.

Adding to the current account deficit in the fourth quarter was \$3.95 billion in transfer payments, including foreign aid. This was offset somewhat by \$5.48 billion in net earnings on foreign investments by Americans.

Many economists warn that the growing foreign debt will eventually lower America's standard of living as the country sends more and more in interest payments overseas.

"It is a time bomb and the fuse is burning away," said Mr. Allen Sinai, chief economist of

the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Baker then asked Congress for \$200 million more for such aid.

He contended that the funds, the second proposed installment of a \$300 million export fund, are needed to fight unfair trade subsidies until the new agreement is put in place.

Mr. Baker praised Japan — the last major holdout on the agreement — for going along with the pact, which he said "imposes significant sacrifices" on Japan.

The European Community (EC) had previously agreed to the pact.

The accord, reached by the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, puts greater limits on the

use of export subsidies to promote exports.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary James Baker on Tuesday announced agreement with major U.S. economic allies to restrict the use of subsidies to promote exports.

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The European Community (EC) had previously agreed to the pact.

The new pact will eventually put a total ban on export subsidy arrangements for goods sold to other industrialised nations. It would also make subsidies more expensive for governments that export to developing countries by raising the grant component from

the current minimum of 25 per cent of the package to 35 per cent and to 50 per cent for the poorest nations.

The increased cost would deter the use of such credits as trade promotion devices and sharpen the distinction between legitimate (foreign aid) and export financing," Mr. Baker said.

The agreement also establishes a new formula for calculating interest rates offered to help a developing nation finance its export purchases, changes that would bring the rates more in line with those charged by commercial banks.

In other testimony, Mr. Baker urged congressional approval of the Reagan administration's request to increase funds to intergovernmental lenders like the World Bank.

— said Brazil must come up soon with a plan for major economic reforms if it expects commercial banks to agree to give it easier terms on paying back the \$70 billion it owes them. Brazil suspended interest payments on that debt last month.

— voiced continued support for current levels of the dollar, claiming a recent agreement among the United States and four other major industrial nations should help American exporters and that will save American jobs.

Though he praised Japan for its agreement on export credits, Mr. Baker said the Japanese should also take additional steps to ease trade barriers.

"We are making some progress, but we are not making enough," he said, "I'd like to see more market opening."

Saudis urged to invest at home

businessmen for investing overseas and branded them "ungrateful."

Sheikh Yousef Al Turki, director-general of Yanbu Industrial City, said that individual investors might have more confidence in developing Saudi industry if they pooled their resources.

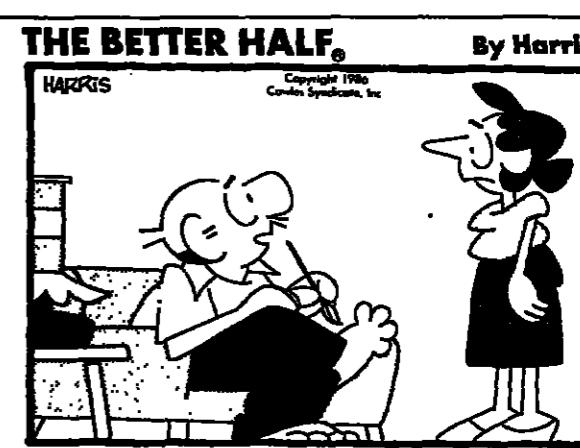
Sheikh Al Zamil said that the drop in oil prices decreased Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product by 30 per cent between 1981 and 1985.

He said Saudi industries make 9.5 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"We should work together to increase this ratio to 15 per cent in the next five years," he said. "The size of the gross domestic product depends directly on economic growth and in order to double the gross domestic product in the next 20 years, the

body is equally-owned by the six GCC members, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.</p

Philippine academy bomb kills 4 in advance of Aquino visit

MANILA (R) — A bomb blast at the Philippine military academy killed four people and wounded 38 Wednesday, wrecking a grandstand where President Corazon Aquino was to have reviewed troops at the weekend.

A spokesman for the academy in the mountain city of Baguio north of Manila told Reuters: "There is no group I would particularly blame for the incident right now."

Gen. Biazon said specialists were combing the sprawling camp to ensure that no more bombs had been planted and were trying to determine the type and number of bombs used.

He said witnesses reported two nearly simultaneous explosions.

Police said they had been refused access to the academy by the military, who said they would conduct their own inquiry.

Army intelligence sources said the bomb might have been planted by groups within the academy, but would not elaborate.

Military sources at first suggested the bombing was the work of Communist rebels fighting an 18-year-old civil war against the government, but no group claimed responsibility.

Wednesday's incident sparked immediate rumours that the blast could have been aimed personally at Mrs. Aquino. Officials refused to speculate.

"There are no solid clues as to who might have planted the bomb," presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno told reporters.

Brigadier-General Rodoiffo

Ortega: Peace requires shift in U.S. attitude

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega says a basic shift in the U.S. government's attitude toward Central America is essential if any peace plan for the region is to succeed, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

But Mr. Ortega told the newspaper in Managua that the Sandinista government was willing to make concessions to satisfy American security concerns. He said such concessions include signing an accord that would allow American troops to establish bases and conduct manoeuvres in any country that invited them.

"If there is a desire on the part of the United States to reach an agreement, one could be reached quickly, and it would respond to the major security concerns of the United States," Mr. Ortega said.

He said the administration of President Ronald Reagan is

1 killed in Japanese quake

TOKYO (Agencies) — A very strong earthquake shook south west Japan Wednesday, killing one person and injuring three, including two children, and authorities reported heavily damaged buildings and warned of tidal waves.

Police said the dead man, a 49-year-old delivery driver, was killed when his truck overturned in Miyazaki Prefecture as the quake struck at 12.36 a.m. (0336GMT).

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Amman

The explosion came against a background of recent general political calm after a year of domestic instability, with the country's focus switching away from coup rumours linked to the rightwing and to the war with the Communists.

Rebels have launched a series of ambushes against military patrols in the country and have sent assassination squads into Manila to kill soldiers and policemen.

Nineteen soldiers were killed Tuesday in an ambush by the Communist New People's Army in a remote part of Quezon province south of Manila, the state-run Philippine News Agency (DNA) reported.

The agency said rebel land mines blew up an armoured vehicle and troop-carrying truck and the army said it had launched a pursuit operation backed by helicopters.

No rebels were reported injured.

The army put the official count of wounded in the military academy blast at 14 officers, seven soldiers and 17 civilians. One officer remained in critical condition but the other wounded were out of immediate danger, a spokesman said.

They included senior officers from the academy and a soldier's

widow, who was at the rostrum rehearsing to receive a posthumous award for him that was to have been given by Mrs. Aquino.

In Washington a top Pentagon official said Aquino's government lacks a master plan to defeat the Communist rebels in the Philippines and the insurgency is still growing.

"Counterinsurgency strategies are developed and then discarded, military advice is often ignored," Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage told a congressional panel.

"Distrust and apathy pervade civil-military relations, poor communication and coordination are common between civilian and military counterparts at all levels of government," he said in testimony submitted Tuesday to the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

In another development, Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur confirmed to the subcommittee that the United States blocked a move to return Marcos to his homeland last January by chartered plane from Hawaii, where he has lived since leaving Manila.

"We made it clear that this (flight) would not take place," Mr. Sigur said.

U.S. will not push Costa Rica into backing contras'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz has said the United States won't try to intimidate Costa Rica into backing the U.S.-supported contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He also said the State Department was preparing a response to the Costa Rican government's request for a formal explanation on a finding by the Tower Commission that a clandestine airstrip inside that country was used to supply the contras.

In a note delivered Monday to the U.S. embassy and addressed to Mr. Shultz, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal complained about the section of the commission's report on the Iran-contra affair that said an aircraft supplying the contra used the airstrip on June 10, 1986.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias told the U.S. government shortly before taking office in June 1982 that he would not permit the airstrip to be used by rebels or those assisting them in their efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's government.

Mr. Shultz, responding to

questions at a hearing of House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, said the United States was doing research necessary to respond to Costa Rica's request.

Asked whether the United States had tried to intimidate Costa Rica in order to win its active support for the contras, Mr. Shultz said no.

"I do not believe in intimidation and would not be part of it," Mr. Shultz said. "I do not take the view that unless you do this and see with the contras, we are going to cut off your aid."

In his note, the foreign minister said any use of the airstrip by the rebels violates Costa Rica's long-held policy of neutrality in Central American affairs. He also said his nation does not permit the rebels to operate from Costa Rican territory.

The Tower Commission was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to investigate covert U.S. arms sales to Iran in 1985-86 and the alleged funneling of payments from the sales to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Human error blamed for Johannesburg blackout

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The biggest power failure in recent South African history plunged Johannesburg and its huge black satellite township of Soweto into darkness for two hours after some apparently pulled a wrong switch.

People in the country's largest city Tuesday were trapped in lifts as police cars raced through deserted streets with sirens wailing in an apparent bid to thwart looting and disturbances.

Meanwhile another strong earthquake was recorded Wednesday in the Molucca Sea off the Indonesian island of Celebes, the Royal Hong Kong Observatory reported.

U.S. conducts second Trident 2 test-firing

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The United States has conducted the second successful test-firing of a Trident-2 nuclear missile, a powerful weapon designed for use by U.S. and British submarines, defence officials said.

The missile, equipped with harmless dummy warheads, roared from a launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force station shortly after noon Tuesday, headed for a target far out in the Atlantic Ocean.

U.S. Defence Department officials said the missile — designed to give Trident submarines the ability to destroy Soviet missiles in their hardened silos — lifted off one day later than planned.

First, if you plan to take the diamond finesse, it is correct to lead to the ace and then finesse. That way you can bring in the suit even if East has queen-fourth, and you give your partner the chance of dropping a bare queen.

However, you can improve your odds considerably by opting to take the spade finesse. Why? Because you can combine that with trying to drop the queen of diamonds!

At trick two, lead a diamond to the ace and return the suit to your king. If the lady is held and does not appear, you will have to fall back on the spade finesse. Once in a while, however, the cards are going to lie as they do in the diagram above. One of your opponents is going to hold the doubleton queen, and you will have nine tricks without having to resort to a finesse.

Mr. Tudor said a JAL flight

was hit by a lightning bolt while flying from Tokyo to Honolulu on Tuesday.

It was an operating error," said Hennie Harmse, ESCOM's Johannesburg manager. "One of our chaps pulled the wrong switch, causing a short circuit."

Japanese aircraft to install off-course warning devices

TOKYO (AP) — Two Japanese airlines will install newly designed devices in Boeing 747s this summer to warn pilots when flights stay off course, airline spokesmen have said.

Japan Air Lines (JAL) asked Boeing to design the warning system last year, partly in response to the Soviet downing of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jet in 1983 after it flew into Soviet Air space, said JAL spokesman Geoffrey Tudor. That crash killed 269 people.

Mr. Tudor said a JAL flight

strayed off course in November 1985 and flew for an hour over the Soviet Union, prompting Soviet fighter jets to scramble. The flight landed safely, but the two incidents and "the general interests of safety and security" led JAL to seek warning system, he said.

JAL and all Nippon Airways, a major domestic carrier that added international flights last year, will be the first two airlines in the world to use the new warning system, Mr. Tudor said.

Sikhs kill 3; Punjab asks for more troops

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Sikh extremists killed three people in Punjab Wednesday as the government in that north Indian state asked New Delhi for paramilitary reinforcements to counter the fresh wave of violence.

Police said the assailants attacked the three this morning near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, focus of an extremist campaign to carve out an independent Sikh nation in Punjab.

The killings brought to 63 the death toll in the extremist violence in Punjab this month.

The Press Trust of India news agency said Punjab's Minister of State in the Home Ministry, Kanwal Singh, told the state parliament his government had asked for more than 600 additional paramilitary Central Reserve Policemen for the state.

The minister said the reinforcements would be used to guard banks which have been hit by a series of robberies believed by Punjab police to have been carried out by the extremists to finance the buying of weapons.

More than 55,000 paramilitary and state police are already deployed in the state on counter-

insurgency operations.

A leading member of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Patiala was shot to death by militant Sikhs on Tuesday, setting off rioting in the Punjabi city, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

Police declared an indefinite curfew barring people from the streets in the old walled sector of Patiala, 210 kilometres north of New Delhi, the news agency said.

UNI said Shambu Prasad, a former Patiala president of the BJP, or Indian Peasant Party, was gunned down by militants in a store he operated. A bodyguard and a servant were seriously wounded in the shooting, the agency said.

The slaying set off rioting by members of the Hindu Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu group, UNI reported. It said the Hindu group set several fires in the city of more than 150,000 population.

Police also reported Tuesday that two people had been fatally shot and one knifed to death by suspected Sikh militants in Punjab's Amritsar district the night before, UNI said.

COLUMNS 7&8

British royal family gets 4.8 % raise

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and 10 of her relatives got 4.8 per cent raises in the new government budget, totaling to £5,289,500 (\$8,410,300) a year the direct cost of the royal family. The appropriation, increased more generously than inflation, currently running at 3.9 per cent, was in the civil list section of the budget announced in parliament by Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer. It goes mostly for salaries to people ranging from the queen's secretaries to cleaners at Buckingham Palace, as well as for office expenses. The civil list does not include such expensive items as running the royal yacht Britannia or royal aircraft. The Times of London estimated last year that the country spends at least six times the civil list sum — or about £30 million (\$48 million) — on its first family. In the new budget, the queen receives the major appropriation of £4.3 million (\$6.9 million). Her mother, Queen Elizabeth, gets the second-largest sum, raised to £375,300 (\$596,700). The queen's husband, Prince Philip, receives £220,300 (\$332,800).

Princess Diana meets Boy George

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, at her request, was introduced to pop star Boy George at a rock music and jazz ballet gala at a London night club. The princess, a pop music fan, is involved in work to help young drug addicts. Boy George last July agreed to undergo drug addiction treatment after being fined £250 (\$397) for possessing heroin. It was not known what the princess and the lead singer in the Culture Club group discussed. The club owner, Peter Stringfellow, said: "The princess asked to meet both Boy George and his mother and they were introduced."

Chris Evert denies filing for divorce

DALLAS (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd has denied reports that she has filed for divorce from British tennis player John Lloyd. Several sources close to Lloyd had indicated that she filed for divorce after meeting her lawyers in mid-February, but the 32-year-old American tennis star issued a statement to the contrary. "Yes we are separated, yes we are discussing divorce, but as of now nobody has filed for divorce. Whether it's two weeks, a month, or a year, John and I will make a statement when it happens," Lloyd said after her three-set victory over Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in a first round match here.

Crime-fighting premier hit by burglars

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, who has twice collared car-radio thieves, missed another crimefighting chance because he was bedridden at his official residence while his family home was burglarized, police have disclosed. Lubbers' career in amateur law enforcement took a turn for the worse last week, when jewels worth 100,000 guilders (\$50,000) were stolen from the family residence, said Rotterdam police spokesman Johannes Den Breejen. The burglars gained entry to the house by smashing a window between last Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, Den Breejen said. No one was home. At the time, Lubbers was confined to bed at his official residence in the Hague with a flu-like illness, according to the government information service. In October and January, Lubbers and one of his sons managed to apprehend burglars who tried to make off with the car radio of Lubbers' wife, Rita.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

ONE-MAN SHOW
By William Canine

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171 — all that
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186 — all that
187 — all that
188 — all that
189 — all